

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00782 280652Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 ACDA-07 CU-02 TRSE-00 BIB-01
/083 W

-----280700Z 004815 /17

R 251550Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2346
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USUN NEW YORK 542
USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0782

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SHUM, CSCE, CZ
SUBJECT: CHARTER 77 - DEATHLY QUIET

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00782 280652Z

REF STATE 0721

1. SUMMARY: THE PAST WEEK HAS BEEN ONE OF COMPLETE QUIET ON
THE PART OF CHARTER 77 ADHERENTS. THE REGIME HAS, HOWEVER,
KEPT UP DESULTORY FIRE AT SOME OF THE LEADING ACTIVISTS AND IS
PARTICIPATING FULLY IN THE GENERAL WARSAW PACT CAMPAIGN TO DEPICT
MENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE COMMUNIST WORLD AS

INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. END SUMMARY.

2. INACTION: SINCE JAN PATOCKA'S FUNERAL MARCH 16, CHARTER SUPPORTERS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN INACTIVE. NO NEW DOCUMENTS EXCEPT THE APPEAL BY HAJEK AND 10 OTHERS TO WESTERN CPS (REFTEL), HAVE SURFACED AND NO SIGNS HAVE APPEARED OF THE EMERGENCE OF NEW LEADERSHIP. THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE CHARTER 77 MOVEMENT IS OFFICIALLY DEAD. THE PEOPLE THAT FORMED ITS BACKBONE BUT NEVER BECAME SPOKESMEN HAVE NOT CHANGED THEIR VIEWS AND THE MOVEMENT STILL RETAINS THE SYMPATHY OF MANY WHO WERE UNWILLING TO SIGN THE DOCUMENT.

3. CONTINUED PRESSURES: THE ONLY PUBLICITY GIVEN CHARTER 77 IN THE PAST WEEK HAS COME FROM THE REGIME. MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED THEIR ATTACKS ON SOME OF THE BETTER-KNOWN CHARTER SIGNERS. KOHOUT AND VACULIK HAVE BEEN SIGNED OUT ON TV AND RADIO WITH VARIATIONS ON

FAMILIAR "REVANCHIST" ELEMENTS. THE MAJOR PROPAGANDA EFFORT, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN ON THE BROAD, SOVIET-ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN TO COUNTER

WESTERN INTENTIONS TO MAKE HUMAN RIGHTS A MAJOR ISSUE AT BELGRADE AND THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION DETERMINATION TO MAKE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS A BASIC PART OF US FOREIGN POLICY. PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE HAVE BEEN FREQUENTLY MENTIONED BY NAME AS PURSUING UNWORKABLE AND MEANINGLESS POLICIES THAT THREATEN TO BREAK DOWN DETENTE. TO ENSURE COORDINATION ON THIS AND OTHER ISSUES FOLLOWING THE SOFIA MEETING OF PARTY IDEOLOGICAL SECRETARIES, THE CPCZ IDEOLOGICAL COMMISSION MET IN PRAGUE MARCH 23 TO LISTEN TO SPEECHES BY PARTY SECRETARIES BILAK AND HAVLIN.
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PAGE 03 PRAGUE 00782 280652Z

4. FOREIGN JOURNALISTS: THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS NOW INDICATED THAT TO OBTAIN VISAS WESTERN JOURNALISTS IN THE FUTURE MUST AGREE NOT TO ATTEMPT TO INTERVIEW DISSIDENTS (PRAGUE 0769). COMMENT: WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAKS CONTINUING THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPOSE CONTROLS OVER THE WESTERN PRESS, THE PROSPECT IS FOR CONTINUED DIFFICULTY ON THIS FRONT. END COMMENT.

5. PRISONER RELEASED: WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THE REPORT BY THE WESTERN PRESS LAST WEEK THAT FRANTISEK PAVLICEK, ONE OF FOUR DISSIDENTS PLACED UNDER INVESTIGATIVE DETENTION IN JANUARY (ALONG WITH PLAYWRIGHT HAVEL) HAS BEEN RELEASED, BECAUSE OF POOR HEALTH. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER INVESTIGATION OF HIM HAS BEEN DROPPED. WHEN THE OTHERS MAY ACTUALLY COME TO TRIAL REMAINS UNCERTAIN.

6. RUMORS: AS WE HAD EXPECTED, RUMORS ARE FLOATING ABOUT THAT THE SECRET POLICE ACTUALLY KILLED JAN PATOCKA. ONE RUMOR DESCRIBES USE IN THE HOSPITAL OF AN ALLEGED METHOD OF

ARTIFICIALLY INDUCING A CEREBRAL HEMORRAGE. PATOCKA'S FAMILY HAS NOT RETREATED FROM ITS STATEMENT THAT HE WAS NOT INTERROGATED OR IMPROPERLY TREATED IN THE HOSPITAL.

7. COMMENT: IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT NO NEW CHARTER 77 LEADERSHIP HAS YET EMERGED. THE THREE ORIGINAL SPOKESMEN, HAVEL, HAJEK, AND PATOCKA EITHER HAD LITTLE TO LOSE IN SPEAKING OUT OR, IN HAVEL'S CASE, HAD RESOURCES NOT DEPENDENT ON REGIME TOLERANCE. THERE ARE NOT TOO MANY OTHER SIGNERS IN THAT POSITION WHO ALSO HAVE THE

FULL TRUST OF THE OTHER SIGNERS AND THE ENERGY AND FORTITUDE TO TAKE ON ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEADERSHIP CHORES. OUR BEST GUESS, HOWEVER, IS THAT, WHILE QUIESCENT, THE MOVEMENT STILL HAS ENOUGH LIFE TO SUSTAIN IT UNTIL THE START OF THE BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW. SUCH FOREIGN EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT AS THE PLANNED MARCH 28 MEETING IN PARIS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SUPPORT OF CHARTER 77 (PARIS 8711) SHOULD GIVE ITS ADHERENTS HERE AN EMOTIONAL
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 PRAGUE 00782 280652Z

BOOST, ALTHOUGH STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FROM WESTERN CPS WOULD DO MORE FOR THEM.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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